

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SS-20 L-03 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 NSC-10 INSE-00 SY-10 FBIE-00 /119 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:JMUEHLKE:SS

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:WHLUERS

EUR/SOV:RECOMBS

EUR/SOV:WJDYESS

EUR/SOV:

----- 008096

R 160004Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226266

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PINS, PINR, PFOR, UR, ID

SUBJECT: SOVIET RE-DEFECTOR NIKOLAY G. PETROV

REFERENCE: STATE 212299, NOTAL AND STATE 193595 NOTAL

1. NIKOLAY G. PETROV, 34, WHO DEFECTED TO THE UNITED STATES IN DJAKARTA IN JUNE 1972 AND WHO WAS SUBSEQUENTLY BROUGHT TO THE UNITED STATES, HAS DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE USSR. ON NOVEMBER 13 THE SOVIET EMBASSY INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROV'S WISHES. A STANDARD PREDEPARTURE INTERVIEW WAS HELD IN THE DEPARTMENT ON NOVEMBER 15, 1973. PETROV WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SOVIET EMBASSY CONSUL GALISHNIKOV AND ATTACHE BUTRIN, A KNOWN KGB AGENT. ONLY GALISHNIKOV WAS PRESENT AT THE INTERVIEW ITSELF. PRESENT ON THE US SIDE WERE AN INS INSPECTOR, A STATE DEPARTMENT PHYSICIAN, AND TWO SOVIET DESK OFFICERS.

2. PETROV SAID DURING THE INTERVIEW THAT HE WANTED TO RETURN BECAUSE THE SOVIET UNION WAS HIS HOMELAND AND HIS
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FAMILY AND RELATIVES WERE THERE. HE WAS NERVOUS AND COM-

BATIVE AND INSISTED THAT HIS DECISION TO RETURN TO USSR WAS ENTIRELY VOLUNTARY.

3. IN CONTRAST TO HIS AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR AT THE OGANESYAN AND SOROKIN INTERVIEWS (SEE REFTELS), SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER GALISHNIKOV WAS THIS TIME COOPERATIVE. HE URGED THE VERY RELUCTANT PETROV TO ANSWER QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM BY THE INS INSPECTOR AND TO SIGN THE STANDARD INS STATE-

MENT CONCERNING VOLUNTARY ENTRY INTO THE US AND VOLUNTARY RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION.

4. GALISHNIKOV SAID THAT HE WOULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PETROV TO LEAVE NEW YORK CITY ON AN AEROFLOT FLIGHT ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18.

5. IF ASKED BY PRESS, DEPARTMENT WILL CONFIRM BASIC FACTS OF NOVEMBER 15 INTERVIEW BUT WILL NOT GO INTO DETAILS OF CASE. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL ASYLUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE226266
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMUEHLKE:SS
Enclosure: DG ALTERD
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731128/aaaaaura.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 212299, NOTAL AND STATE 193595
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Oct-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET RE-DEFECTOR NIKOLAY G. PETROV
TAGS: CASC, PINS, PINR, PFOR, UR, ID, (PETROV, NIKOLAY G)
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005